

5506 Greenspring Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21209-1330

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to tell you my thoughts about the recent events in the Microsoft Anti Trust case. This whole issue has been dragged through the mud, wasting precious time and money. Nonetheless, I am glad to see that the Justice Department and Microsoft have come up with some sort of agreement. I just hope that everyone can put their various interests aside for the good of the country. This settlement needs to be finalized so that our country can get on with things. Our country is supposed to be a free enterprise system, but for years Microsoft has been punished for creating superior products and making money in the process.

I don't see how this issue can even be disputed. Microsoft is giving up a great deal just so that don't have to worry with this issue any more. They are giving away their technology secrets so that their less innovate competitors can create products that will be able to compete with Microsoft. They also will be changing their business practices so as not to obligate anyone to have to sell Microsoft's products over anyone else's.

Please accept this settlement, it is high time that our computer industry be allowed to move forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mendel Friedman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mendel Friedman